

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.963
Amateur Radio Newsline #963 29 JAN 1996

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Sorry, we're late due to work commitments this week. We don't have time to correct the format errors either.

NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #963 - POSTED 01/29/96

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. Amateur Radio Newsline is a audio news service distributed via telephone.

This hardcopy version is produced by Dale Cary - WD0AKO from scripts provided to him weekly by Newsline. It is then distributed to on-line services, bbs networks and internet user jointly by Dale Cary and Steve Coletti.

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The audio version of Newsline can be recorded from one of the currently operating lines listed below. This list is kept as accurate as possible. If any changes are not listed, please contact Dale Cary - WD0AKO at the above listed addresses.

Audio Version of Newsline

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Los Angeles..... (213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line)..... (805) 296-2407
Seattle..... (206) 368-3969
Seattle..... (206) 281-8455
Tacoma..... (206) 927-7373
Louisville..... (502) 894-8559
Dayton..... (513) 275-9991
Chicago..... (708) 289-0423
New York City..... (718) 284-0752
Melbourne, Florida..... (407) 768-7447
Houston, Texas..... (713) 362-4650
Conroe, Texas..... (409) 525-6250

Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie..... m345;1
GEnie..... m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG)..... (214) 492-7573
 In bulletin number 36
The Midwest Connection BBS..... (701) 239-2440
 In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference
America Online.....
 Ham Radio forum/Ham Radio General File Library
Delphi.....
 In the ham radio conference
CompuServe/HamNet..... HamNet Library 0

True Speech Internet Site

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<http://www.scott.net/~wa4fat>

For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line listed above. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at

NEWSLINE
c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, CA
91066

Thank You,
NEWSLINE

(*****

Some of the hams of AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE:

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN and
many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

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[964]

(* * * * * C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y * * * * *
(*
(* The following is an important closed circuit advisory, not to *
(* be transmitted over amateur radio. *
(*
(* Attention all bulletin stations. Newsline is once again on *
(* the verge of bankruptcy and existing hand to mouth. We urgently *
(* need your support to survive. *
(* As we have said many times, the decision whether Newsline *
(* stays or goes is yours. If you want this service to continue, *
(* we will need your ongoing financial support, and it is needed *
(* right now. *
(*

(*) The address for the Newsline Support Fund is:
(*)
(*) NEWSLINE SUPPORT FUND
(*) P.O.Box 660937
(*) Arcadia, California
(*) 91066
(*)
(*) This ends the closed circuit with Newsline report number 962
(*) for release on Friday, January 19, 1996 to follow.
(*)
(*) * * * * *

The following is a QST

The FCC giveth and the FCC taketh away once again. Also, the FCC plays catch-up on ham licensing and who is in and who is out in the ARRL's top leadership. Find out on an expanded Newsline report number 963 coming your way right now!

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FCC PROPOSES TO SUSPEND AMATEUR USE OF 76-77 GHZ

The FCC says that it wants to strip Amateur Radio from temporary use of one of its microwave bands to permit further experimentation with vehicle locating systems. In a Second Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in ET Docket 94-124, issued just before the Federal shutdown in mid-December, the Federal Communications Commission has proposed amending Part 97 of its rules to temporarily disallow amateur use of the 76-77 GHz band," which the FCC hopes to open for commercial development along with other "millimeter wave" frequency bands above 40 GHz.

The band in question is part of the 75.5 to 81 GHz allocation, which the amateur and amateur satellite services share with other users on a primary basis from 75.5-76 GHz, and on a secondary basis from 76-81 GHz. The primary allocation of 76-81 GHz is assigned to radiolocation, including radar. The commission says the change will permit development of Part 15 vehicle radar systems in the 76-77 GHz band that could be used in conjunction with Intelligent Transportation Systems. The FCC says that restricting amateur use of 76-77 GHz will prevent potential interference to these developing systems.

The NPRM says the temporary restriction could be relaxed if it can be shown that other in-band transmissions would not compromise vehicle radar system safety or if sharing guidelines can be worked out. The FCC says it will revisit the issue within five years.

At the same time, the FCC has also acted to balance any perceived harm to amateur operators as mandated under federal law. It proposes to upgrade amateur status in the 77.5-78 GHz band from secondary to co-primary with government and non-government radiolocation services. This, the FCC says, will ensure that amateur access to spectrum near 77 GHz is maintained without the threat of preemption by higher priority services.

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FCC LICENSE CATCH-UP

The Federal Communications Commission reports it is making good progress on processing a backlog of more than 2800 ham radio license applications filed electronically after it re-opened following the latest government shutdown. The commission was back on the job again January 16, in the wake of the month-long shutdown begun by the budget impasse and extended by bad weather and a Federal holiday after it first reopened for a day January on 11th. A spokesman said the FCC expects to be up to date with electronically filed applications for new and updated licenses by the time this newscast goes to air.

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ARRL ELECTIONS

Rod Stafford, KB6ZV of San Jose, California has been elected as President of the American Radio Relay League by a vote of the organizations Board of Directors. Stafford has been serving as ARRL president since last summer when former president George Wilson, W4OYI, stepped down to concentrate on rehabilitation from a severe stroke suffered in February of last year.

The decision to elect Stafford for a full term as ARRL President is seen as a major vote of confidence in his ability to lead the League and the United States Amateur Radio Service toward the next century.

The board of directors also elected Directors Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC as 3rd Vice President, Joel Harrison, WB5IGF, as 2nd Vice President and Steve Mendelsohn, WA2DHF to the 1st Vice Presidents post.

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NO MORE LOCAL COURTS

A group of hams who say that they are fed up with lawyers using civil courts to litigate ham radio disputes are demanding that the FCC declare all such activities legally invalid. The Committee For Federal Preemption of Civil Ham Radio Litigation says that it wants the FCC to issue a declaratory ruling that bars states, cities and other municipalities from hearing cases that in any way involve ham radio communications.

The Albany, Georgia based group points to ham versus ham cases in California, Florida, Texas and New Jersey as the basis for its decision to act. It says that it will file a formal request to the FCC within the next week asking that the statement of federal preemption be issued.

The committee is also setting up a home page on the World Wide Web to accept what it calls, valid complaints against lawyers who advise hams to sue other hams in civil court. These they say will be referred as formal complaints to the bar associations of the states in which attorneys seeking these cases have their practice.

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ATTORNEY-HAM CITES OHIO ARREST AS POSSIBLE WARNING

Speaking of hams who are lawyers, one who appears to be giving good advice is Ron Pretekin, AB8K, of Dayton, Ohio. In the wake of the December arrest of a Moraine, Ohio, CBer for causing TVI at his neighbor's apartment, Ron says that hams should take note of what such problems ultimately can lead to.

According to the new electronic edition of the ARRL Letter, Pretekin points to an article in the Dayton Daily News describing the circumstances under which the CBer, Steven Holbrook, wound up in jail on a third-degree felony charge. According to the report, Holbrook and the neighbor had feuded over the problem for several months. His arrest came after the neighbor tape-recorded Holbrook's CB chatter as it came over his TV. The newspaper said the conversation included profanity and threats against the neighbor.

As previously reported, if convicted, Holbrook faces a maximum \$5000 fine and 10 years in jail.

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RF PROOF CLOTHING

Jim Sullivan, N7TCF reports via the VHF Reflector that a company called ShieldWorks is selling rf-proof clothing, mainly the microwaves. Some of the claims may be borderline, but Jim says that apparently this company has provided such clothing to the military and radio industry.

Jim adds that you can find more information about ShieldWorks by taking to the word-wide-web adding that he is passing this information along because of what he calls the unfounded fear that RF could seriously impact on the fun side of Amateur Radio.

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JOSEPH MERDLER N6AHU, S.K.

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

"For me, the most difficult part of my job is to write the epitaph of a member of our community who has gone to his or her final reward. It's far harder when the person I am writing about happens to be someone I have been close friend of for over two decades. This is one of those cases. I will do my best.

On Wednesday, January 17th, former Newsline legal reporter Joseph Merdler, N6AHU, died of an apparent heart attack at his home in North Hollywood, California. Joe was a lawyer by profession and was part of the Newsline family almost since its inception in the 1976. This, when we were still known as the Westlink Radio Network.

Joe came to national prominence in the late 70's and early 80's for his work in combating malicious interference and the use of vile language on our bands through political action. He even traveled to Washington to teach the American Radio Relay League how to deal with the legislators on Capitol Hill. And in 1980, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association recognized his accomplishments by honoring him with its Special Achievement Award.

Joe was hard at work and taking his anti malicious interference message nationwide when he suffered his first heart attack in the mid-1980's. His doctors told him that he would have to cut back and change his life style if he wanted to live. He took their advice, to some degree, but there was no way for him to walk completely away from his chosen responsibilities. He often told me that to do so would be like not living at all.

So Joe cut back on the number of hours that he worked. He lost weight and even put ham radio politics somewhat on the back burner.

But Joe's health continued to fail. Even so, he still attended the 1991 Dayton Hamvention. He loved the Hamvention and the people of Dayton, but immediately following the close of the Hamvention '91, Joe admitted himself to the Cleveland Clinic for evaluation. It was a move that literally saved his life.

The Cardiac Care specialists found that Joe had developed an aneurysm on his heart that was ready to burst. They operated and it was a partial success. His life was spared for the moment, but we all knew that he was living on borrowed time.

I guess that knowing that your time on earth is limited does change you. It did Joe. He came home from Cleveland a quieter and more loving person. Not somber. Quite the opposite. He relished every moment of every day and his dedication to his friends and family, and even to ham radio, was totally renewed.

I wish I had the time to tell you of all of Joe's accomplishments.

I don't. But I do want to share the reason that Joe was so driven in his war against the purveyors of dirty words on our ham radio airwaves. It was a small incident that took place in 1978.

He was in his car with his then young daughter and turned on his two

meter radio. Immediately out of the speaker came forth a savage tirade of foul language that was without doubt legally obscene. He told me that his daughter looked at him and asked: "Dad, is this what your ham radio is all about?" From that day, until the day he died, Joe Merdler, N6AHU devoted his ham radio life to fostering decency on the air.

I guess that it is apropos that in the last conversation that Joe and I had, I was able to tell him about a Supreme Court decision that upheld the FCC's ban on the broadcast of indecent language. A decision that we both saw as opening the door to renewed enforcement of laws barring legally indecent languages in all services. Perhaps even on the ham bands.

And maybe that is what this epitaph is really all about. The simple

story of a decent man who devoted much of his adult life to making our hobby of amateur radio a decent place where kids of all ages can play.

That by itself is well worth remembering.

A long time ago, Joe made me promise that if I ever had to write an obituary about him, that it would not be maudlin. He wanted it to be up beat, and hopefully, I have lived up to that request.

Joe was 60 years old and had just bought his airline tickets for his

annual trip to the Hamvention. But god called him to come home instead. He is survived by his wife Margot, N6QFU, by his thousands of friends around the world and by this writer whose life he touched in an almost magical way.

73 Joe. I will never forget you."

This reporter joins with Bill and the rest of the ham radio community
in offering our condolences to Joe's family.

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DARE BENEFIT

The third annual Ham Radio and Computer Flea Market to benefit Lancaster, New Hampshire's North County DARE Program takes place on Sunday, March 2nd. Sponsored jointly by the Twin Mountain Amateur Radio Club and Littleton Amateur Radio Club, the event will be held at the Twin Mountain Town Hall. For more information please contact Richard Force WB1ASL at his callbook address.

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MIR HAM STATION FAILURE

If you are wondering about the lack of ham radio activity from the Russian Mir space station, Dr. Thomas Reiter DF4TR has some answers. Dr. Reiter is aboard the Mir orbital complex and says that the power supply used for some of the Amateur radio equipment on Mir has failed.

An old power supply has been installed, but it is only capable of handling the old Icom transceiver and one TNC.

Dr. Reiter says that the Digital Voice Module has also failed. Because of this, there will be no more automatic voice recordings in the near future. And if that was not enough, all four fuses in the two connected transceivers blew, and only two spare fuses are left to run the remaining gear.

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SURF-SAT LAUNCHED

An experimental satellite that has a lot of interest in it by radio amateurs is on the air from space. Its called Surfsat One.

A satellite payload designed and built by college students has been successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, aboard a NASA launch vehicle. Now in orbit 746 miles above Earth, Surfsat-1 rode piggy-back on the upper stage launch vehicle for Radarsat, a Canadian satellite.

Surfsat carries low power radio transmitters which send in three microwave bands to NASA tracking stations. It will be used for deep space communication research and development, and also will be used to test a new set of Earth orbit tracking stations.

The student project was initiated at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in 1987 as part of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program of the California Institute of Technology.

While Surfsat is not a ham radio satellite it has drawn a lot of interest from radio amateurs because of the educational nature of the project.

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SOUTH AFRICAN BULLETIN SERVICE

From overseas, word that the South African Radio League invites all the worlds radio amateurs to listen to their ham radio bulletin program known as Amateur Radio Mirror International. The 55 minute weekly program is filled with up to date ham radio news from the

African continent along with interviews, technical features and lots of ham radio related talk.

Amateur Radio Mirror International is broadcast every Sunday at 10:00 hours and Monday at 2000 hours South Africa Standard Time on 7.205 MHz and on Mondays at 2000 hours South African Standard Time. It's also simulcast on Mondays at 20:00 hours on 3.215 MHz as well

These transmissions are sponsored by Sentech which is the common carrier group for broadcasting in South Africa along with support from South Africa Telecom which provides transmission lines for the service.

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ZL BEACON

And the VHF Reflector reports that New Zealand's ZB2VHF beacon is temporarily off air for an overhaul. When work is complete it will be relocated at a new site. Its owner, Jimmy Bruzon, ZB2BL says he will notify everyone when it is returned to service.

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DX

In DX, word that the mid-winter 6 meter DX openings are continuing and they are not limited to the northern hemisphere. Reports from Australia tell of extended 50 Mhz propagation on January 13th with stations from all Australian States plus the Australian Capital Territory have been heard and worked in New Zealand. Australians also report hearing Japanese stations but as of yet, nothing from the United States.

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YHOTY '96 NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

A reminder that the nominating period for 1996 "Young Ham of the Year Award" is now open. Originally known as the "Westlink Report Young Ham of the Year," this award program, now entering its second decade, is presented annually to a United States licensed Radio Amateur who is 18 years of age or younger and who has provided outstanding service to the nation, his community or the betterment of the state of the art in communications through the Amateur Radio hobby service.

All nominations must be submitted before June 30, 1996 on an official application. Application forms are available by sending a self addressed stamped envelope mailed to the:

Young Ham of the Year Award
c/o Newsline
28197 Robin Avenue

Saugus, California
91350

These nominating applications are also available for electronic download from several sites that provide Newsline materials over the World Wide Web and from the general interest ham radio files area on GEnie and America Online.

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GATES TRAVEL

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that Microsofts' Bill Gates, who has almost \$13 billion, and Warren Buffett, who has close to \$11 billion, are said to be planning a trip together. The two may rent a train and travel the length and breadth of China. Must be nice.

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And for this week, thats all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE
P.O.Box 660937
Arcadia, California
91066

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF at our editors desk, we say 73 and we thank you for listening.

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